



Le Butineur

Pollinium, créateur de biodiversité

Newsletter of bees of ADELAC .

Committed to protect biodiversity, ADELAC invests in sponsorship of bees. Come and get an inside peek of the incredible life of foraging bees. If you are a nature lover, you will certainly enjoy it.



Spring 2024



– Beehive history –

The unique kindness of a nurse bee

Just six days after hatching, a bee will take on a crucial role in the hive: she will become a nurse and remain so until around her twelfth day. It will be a week of intense love and unconditional care. This is because nurse bees care for and feed the larvae, each of which is growing in its own alveolus. The feeding glands of these young bees have completed their development, allowing them to secrete royal jelly.

The latter will be the exclusive diet of the future queens and part of it is also mixed with pollen and honey for all the other larvae. Only the nurses have the exact recipe for this "mush", the dose of which varies according to the age and status of the inhabitant of the hive to be fed. The nurses will place a drop of the mush at the bottom of



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the cell, once every seventh visit near a larva. The other six visits consist of monitoring and care. Researchers at the INRA and the University of Saint-Étienne in France have shown, for example, that some nurse bees are

able to detect brood cells parasitised by the Varroa destructor parasite and clean them!

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– Beehive history –

Trapping Asian hornet queens



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The Asian hornet is now present throughout France, causing considerable damage to beehives. This dangerous bee predator is capable of decimating a hive in a very short time. That's why it's important to watch out for this invasive pest and fight against it. In spring, from mid-February to the end of May, trapping the founding queens can be a way of limiting the damage. After hibernating, these fertilised queens will emerge to start a new nest and lay their first eggs, which they will nurture until they're capable of growing the nest themselves. They will then devote the rest of their lives to laying eggs. Spring is, therefore, a crucial time for beekeepers who suffered the damage during the previous year. Traps, which are preferably selective (allowing other insects to leave) should be hung near the previous summer nests to capture a certain number of founding queens. Then, from April to June, they can be placed near the apiaries. Ideally, the fight against the invaders should be concerted over the same area to increase effectiveness.



– Bees and men –

Supplies department

The bees known as "foragers" are in charge of collecting the raw materials from the environment around the hive to meet the needs of the colony. They seek out four raw materials: nectar (of course!), pollen, water and propolis.

Nectar generally comes from nectaries. When it comes from the sugary secretions of aphids, it is known as honeydew.

Pollen, the plant protein essential for larvae rearing, is collected from the flower stamens.

Water is necessary for the thermoregulation of the colony, especially in hot weather.

Propolis, collected from the buds, has fungicidal and anti-septic properties that help keep the hive healthy.

If there is a shortage of these raw materials, either in quantity or quality, the colony will weaken or even collapse.

Every industry, like a beehive, is dependent on the quantity and quality of the raw materials it uses.

So let's not neglect the supply service: it's essential to any transformative activity!

Henry Duchemin,

beekeeper, sociologist and founder of Mélilot Consulting

For more info, please go to: <http://melilotconsulting.com>



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News from Pollinium

Stéphane Rique, a resourceful partner from Nice



© Pollinium

In 2012, a swarm of bees decided to land at Stéphane Rique's home near Nice. There was an immediate connection between the insects and Stéphane. He worked as an electrician at the time and he quickly decided to adopt his first hive.

The same year, he joined the Pollinium family to look after the beehives in the French department of the Alpes-Maritimes. He still looks after 8 Pollinium swarms in the department, as well as thirty of his own hives.

Since he is passionate about bees, Stéphane Rique also gives workshops at schools to introduce children to the world of bees. "This is something that

I really enjoy," he says.

In 2020, his passion prompted him to change his life. He closed his business as an electrical contractor and opened "Côté ruche", a beekeeping shop where he also runs beekeeping courses for hobbyists.

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Newsflash

LEARNING BEES

The journal Nature recently reported on a study on bees carried out by the British biologist Alice Bridges, demonstrating their intelligence and ability to pass on information to each other. To gain access to sugar, they had to push a blue lever and then a red one. The colonies which had learned to push only the blue lever in a previous study managed to find the solution more easily and could therefore also activate the red lever. The information was successfully passed on from one generation to the next!